श्री मूल चंद मीणा : जो जांच चल रही है उसको तो क्लीयर होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : एक मंत्री के लिए ऐसे कैसे कहा जा सकता है। ..(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप ठहरिए। ...(व्यवधान)..आप बैठ जाएं। ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : ऐसे किसी सदस्य को मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता कि जो आप चाह रहे हैं वह किया जाए। ....(व्यवधान)...

श्री लालू प्रसाद : महोदय, यह क्या हो रहा है। ....(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : सरोज जी, आप क्वेश्चन नहीं पूछना चाहती है क्या? ...(व्यवधान)..

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे : हम यह पूछना चाहते हैं, बहुत गंभीर सवाल हैं मरे पास, लेकिन यह जवाब न दें, दूसरे मंत्री जी दें। *{Interruptions)*

श्री सभापति : दूसरे नहीं देंगे,मैंने कह दिया। ...(व्यवधान)... It will not go on record.

*129 [The questioner (Prof. R.B.S. Verma) was absent for answer *vide* pages 30—33 *infra.]*

Insurgency on India's eastern border

*130. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Security Agencies in India have submitted a highly disturbing report to Government detailing the disruptive activities of the insurgent groups in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the problems of insurgency on the India's eastern border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(a) to (c) Reports indicate that a number of Indian insurgent groups from North East have bases in Bangladesh which are being used for safe havens, sanctuaries, bases for providing training to their cadres and transit facilities during their clandestine movement for purposes of arms smuggling and other illegal activities. The matter has been taken up with

the Government of Bangladesh. They have assured that they will not allow undesirable elements to use their territory far activities prejudicial to the interest of India.

The Government has taken various steps to tackle insurgency in the North East which *inter alia* includes deployment of para-military forces and Army, coordinated action by Security Forces for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, declaration of the insurgency affected areas as "disturbed areas" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Governments and modernisation/upgradation of the State Police Forces.

To check infiltration from Indo-Bangladesh border, the Government is implementing a project for fencing, introduction of night vision equipments, strengthening border guarding by reducing gaps between border out posts, deployment of additional forces, increased patrolling etc.

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India gets specific information about the existence of militant training camps in Bangladesh, wherein insurgents are being imparted training for indulging in anti-India insurgent activities in the eastern border. Also, I would like to know whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government. Though you have given a reply, there is no adequate information. I would like to know whether you have taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: This matter has already been taken up, at the diplomatic level, with the Bangladesh Government. And in response to that, the External Affairs Minister of Bangladesh had paid a visit to India. These things have been brought to the notice of the Bangladesh External Affairs Minister also.

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: My second supplementary is that there is a widespread report that Pakistani terrorist outfit ISI is working in close cooperation with the Bangladesh Government. There is an intelligence report to the Government of India in this regard. But what action the Government has taken against the Pakistani terrorists who are operating from Bangladesh with the cooperation of the Government of that country?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in addition to using diplomatic channels, we have also become more vigilant on the border. As a result of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers a task force which was appointed by them, the border management has separately been taken up and a Border Management Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs has also been created under the supervision of a Secretary level officer. We have also utlised highly sophisticated equipment on the border. The gap between outposts has also been reduced.The number of towers has also been increased. We are also enrolling more number of battalions on the BSF side. All those actions are being taken. As has been pointed out in the earlier question, in the first phase, fencing of about 1000 kms. has been done. In the second phase, by 2007 all the fencing as well as road building along the border of Bangladesh will be completed. More than Rs. 1330 crores have already been earmarked by the Government for fencing and road building activities and getting the border almost foolproof so that these activities do not come to India from Bangladesh border.

Ghatkopar blast case

*131. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sayyed Yunus Khwaja, one of the accused in Ghatkopar blast case, escaped from police custody;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials responsible and the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On January 7,2003, Sayyed Yunus Khwaja, one of the accused in Ghatkopar blast case, was being taken to Aurangabad for investigation by Police in a police jeep which met with a minor accident at Jategaon Ghat near Supa, district Ahamadnagar. Taking advantage of this situation, Sayyed Yunus Khwaja managed to escape from the police custody.

(c) The concerned policemen have been placed under suspension and a departmental enquiry has been initiated against them. Mumbai Police is investigating the blast case.